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Hi, everyone!
Students from Stuart Baker Elementary School take a second to scan the crowd, looking for loved ones, before their holiday concert on Dec. 18 in Haliburton. For more photos, see inside this edition. /EMILY STONEHOUSE staff

Communication boards create connection

EMILY STONEHOUSE
Editor

"We all use different forms of communication to connect."

That's what Sue Tiffin, the community safety and well-being plan coordinator for the County of Haliburton, shared when asked about the recently built communication boards in Head Lake Park and Rotary Beach Park in Haliburton.

"The communication boards in our local parks can be used by anyone to communicate, play and have fun," she said. "They help familiarize people with a tool they might not see every day but that can be essential for people who use augmentative and alternative communication (AAC) to have access to language."

Tiffin said that some people use AAC temporarily, when they are either developing speech, or have developed a short-term condition where speech is not accessible.

see CREATING page 2

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Creating a 'barrier-free society' for everyone

from page 1

Other times, it could be accessed over a long-term, for some children and adults to use if they have a chronic or a long-term condition that may impact communications.

"The installation of communication boards in our playgrounds helps to create a barrier-free society," said Tiffin. "They promote inclusion and raise awareness and education of complex communication needs as well as augmentative and alternative communication."

The boards are bright, bold, and colourful. They use pictures and images to portray thoughts, feelings, gestures, phrases, and actions that individuals who use AAC can access in an effort to express themselves. "Talking with friends is fun. Pictures help us include everyone," says the banner across the top.

Tiffin noted that the communication boards are designed for everyone to use or have fun with in a creative way, as they're designed as a method of interaction, and that can take many shapes and sizes. "They're a great tool for kids to play with each other, for kids and adults to interact together, and for people who might have communication difficulties or disabilities."

This includes early learners who do not know how to read words yet, newcomers to the community, or people who may not speak because of a brain injury, stroke, autism, or dementia.

Tiffin said she noticed communication boards popping up in early 2019, before she even started working for the County of Haliburton. "As a resident with an interest in augmentative and alternative communication, I shared some of the images that were circulating on social media with county staff, and they were quickly receptive to the concept," she noted.

Later that year, she was invited to present to the county's Joint Accessibility Committee on communication boards, and they quickly got to work on the initiative, before their efforts were put on pause during the COVID-19 pandemic in 2020.

In 2022, Tiffin joined the staffing team at the County of Haliburton, in the role she currently resides, and is now staff support on the committee. "Dysart staff were successful with a grant application to install an additional communication board, and they were proactive in re-initiating the project," she said. "So we were able to collaborate to get these first boards into the ground."

The Joint Accessibility Committee has committed to funding one communication board in each municipality over the next year, with at least three more on the roster for parks and playgrounds across the county in the coming months.

Lennon and Harper Tiffin check out the recently installed communication boards in Head Lake Park. Haliburton County's Joint Accessibility Committee has committed to installing the boards in parks and public places within each municipality over the next year. /Photo submitted

Tiffin is optimistic that the boards will make these spaces in the community feel more welcoming and inclusive for everyone wanting to be there. "They make communication accessible to everyone, including people with speech and language barriers," she said. "They make a thought or spoken message visible."

Moose FM raises $49,200 for local food banks

THOMAS SMITH

Staff Reporter

This year, 93.5 Moose FM's Holiday Radiothon raised $49,200.

For the past 18 years, the campaign has been raising money for food banks in Haliburton County. This year's Holiday Radiothon was the first one to take place over 12 hours, rather than two days.

The benefactors from the Holiday Radiothon included Cardiff Community Food Bank, Minden Community Food Centre, Highlands East Food Hub in Wilberforce, and 4C's Food Bank and Lily Ann Thrift Store in Haliburton. For twelve hours, Moose FM host Rick Lowes, visitors from the food banks, and other guests were on the air to raise money to provide food to those in need.

"Christmas is a time when you think of other people and your blessings," said Lowes, a long-time broadcaster with 93.5 Moose FM. "It is human instinct to reach out to help."

Hunger is something that everyone experiences. Without a steady source of food, it hurts, says Lowes. At this point, donating to the food banks around the holiday season is a long-standing tradition and one that Lowes says will continue for the foreseeable future.

"You can't sit back and know people are suffering."

This year's Holiday Radiothon is the 34th radiothon event that Lowes has participated in. He describes every radiothon as being fun and exciting.

The Moose FM location in Haliburton welcomed visitors to share their stories, enjoy Christmas treats, and spread holiday cheer.

"I am always nervous," said Lowes. "I want to do the best I can, you have a sense of responsibility to do the best you can."

Even with the nerves, this year's Holiday Radiothon was a great success. Food Banks Canada estimates that over two million people visited a food bank in March of this year. The year saw the highest number of food bank visits in Canada of all time. With the donations from Moose FM, listeners and supporting businesses, the communities in Haliburton County will greatly benefit from the access to healthy and nutritious food for the holiday season.

"Once again, we are absolutely amazed by the generosity," said Tina Jackson, the executive director of the Central Food Network. Jackson says the organization is completely blown away by the community's generosity and wishes to express their gratitude towards everyone that donated, and those involved with the Holiday Radiothon. As their operating costs and local need for food increases, Jackson says this sizable donation will allow those down on their luck and struggling to put food on their table. Central Food Network operates the Highlands East Food Hub and the Cardiff Food Bank.

"We cannot do this without the community," said Jackson.

The holiday season should be a time in which you can share with loved ones and family. Nothing brings happiness and warmth like a warm dinner.

Lowes and the Moose FM team would like to thank the outstanding support of the community. "Year after year, Moose FM listeners and the Haliburton Highlands community never fail to remind us of the generosity and kindness of those around us."

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Gallery lead asks for budget increase from Dysart

JAMES MATTHEWS

Staff Reporter

Dysart's Rails End Gallery could get a budget increase next year.

Pat Moffatt, president of the gallery's board of directors, laid out the gallery's case for more money on Dec. 13, when township council dove into the first draft of the municipal 2025 capital and operating budget.

Moffatt said the gallery is the only non-profit gallery in Dysart that serves the public by providing opportunities to explore and appreciate the creative arts.

It offers cultural activities and authentic tourist experiences by way of a staff of dedicated volunteers.

Moffatt said they have been responsible stewards of the gallery and have operated within their annual operating budget. That's been done through reducing staff hours and by having them take on additional duties previously outsourced.

"This has kept the gallery functioning but at a significant cost to our ideal service level," she said.

In light of that, the board requested its 2025 operating budget be increased to $75,000 and that subsequent annual budgets be increased according to consumer price increases.

"We feel this is a reasonable request as our funding has remained flat for at least 18 years," Moffatt said.

The request was arrived at by applying the last 18 years of consumer price index increases.

"Among other things, the increased funding will help us to ensure that we avoid future operating deficits," she said.

Barbara Swannell, the township's treasurer, said the first draft of the 2025 municipal capital and operating budget has the Rails End Gallery pencilled in to receive $75,000 next year. And money has been earmarked for a building condition assessment.

The new money will enable work to update gallery lighting to LED lights and replace the dimmer panel. It will cover the addition of extra lighting to make it more suitable to a proper multi-purpose space. Interior security cameras will improve security for staff.

The beefier budget will allow for the preservation and repair of the original gallery floors to bolster safety and cleanliness. Seasonal staff could be augmented and the gallery could then be open longer in the busy summer tourism season.

The accessible entrance equipment and door has been damaged by ice and wind. The new money would cover necessary repairs.

And it will "allow for reserve funds to be built up to cover future replacement of the aging infrastructure," Swannell said.

High among the infrastructure needs will be the furnace and replacement of the aging elevator.

"Over the years, we have also taken many actions to save money," Moffatt said.

Some of those cost-saving initiatives includes a 20 per cent reduction of daily operating hours. The summer season was shortened from May to September to July and August.

The gallery work week was reduced to five days in the summer months and to four days during other months. The gallery is closed in January.

Garbage pickup and cleaning services are no longer outsourced.

"And, unfortunately, we have made scheduling changes to leave one staff member on their own frequently," she said. "This was a difficult decision as we want to provide a safe work environment for our staff."

Moffatt said efforts have been made to increase the gallery's earning potential. Chief among those is that program-related income streams have been added. Artist fees to attend the annual Arts and Crafts Festival have been increased and the scope of responsibility for volunteers at the festival have been increased.

"We have managed and secured funding for many projects over the years to improve and maintain the historical gallery building," she said.

In fact, more than $213,000 has been invested in maintaining and upgrading the building.

"There is still more to do and we hope that our work can continue," she said.

Moffatt said their second request is for $4,407 to cover the cost of a property condition assessment.

"We feel that this is a crucial step to identify deficiencies and to build a plan to maintain the historic building for a long time," she said.

Here comes Santa Claus

Hadley Ryckman sits with Santa Claus in Foodland in Haliburton last weekend. /EMILY STONEHOUSE staff

Charlotte and Hannah Patterson made sure to visit Santa on his most recent visit to Haliburton before he left for the North Pole.

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Builder pitches solution to HE housing shortage

JAMES MATTHEWS

Staff Reporter

Daniel Segal believes he can build housing in Highlands East at or below the detached purchase price $265,000.

He said the solution to the housing crisis lies in large part to separating the land value from the house value by way of subsidies.

Segal of Segal Construction has built homes in Hamilton and Toronto for years. About six months ago, he got away from that to try to help fix the housing shortage in Ontario, he said.

He has met with the councils of about 50 municipalities "to present the solution to the housing crisis that we face in 2024," he said.

The provincial government recently introduced Bill 23 in 2022, which is a plan to build 1.5 million homes by 2031.

"And I think inherently that bill is flawed because I don't think adding 1.5 million houses, all costing $3 million, will do anything to actually solve problems unless we further tailor that bill to houses under half a million dollars," Segal said.

In 2013, as much as 79 per cent of the houses in Ontario cost less than half a million dollars, he said. Then, in 2023, only about 14 per cent cost that much money.

"Affordability of houses is really getting out of hand," he said. "The only way to change that in 2024 is to build more entry-level houses for sale. Everything else is a Band-Aid solution."

In Australia and the United States, the supply issues has been addressed to better counter the housing crisis there.

"Canada has tried to sweep the problem under the carpet by increasing (Canada Mortgage and Housing Corporation) guaranteed loans to $1.5 million and by encouraging rental buildings," he said.

And that isn't creating new houses, he said, which is a policy that's inherently flawed.

Segal said his model aims to separate the value of the land from the house's value in order to sell the houses at or below the detached purchase price. In Highlands East, that price is $265,000.

That amount would barely cover the land costs and the money to service that land to support a very basic building there.

Existing houses in Highlands East should be brought up to a certain standard before any new housing is built.

On houses built during the boom after the Second World War, people were making between $2 and $5 a day. Labour today costs between $300 to $500 a day.

He said factoring in the cost of construction in 2024 is really a slap in the face to a lot of small municipalities.

"The only way to create new housing is through government support and, primarily, that should take the form of subsidizing the land and the below-ground infrastructure so that developers could actually build houses at or below half a million dollars," Segal said.

Council received Segal's pitch as information.

'Tis the ski-son to be jolly

Students from Haliburton Highlands Secondary School participated in Nordic ski races at Glebe Park on Dec. 18, competing against students from across the board. The early snow of the season made for good conditions on the trails, and a series of locals made the podium at the end of the cold day. /TIM YANO staff photographer

Canoe FM Begins On-Air Testing on 97.1 FM in Minden!

Canoe FM is excited to announce that **Innovation, Science and Economic Development Canada (ISED)** has authorized us to begin on-air testing of the permanent transmitting facilities at our repeater station, **CKHA-FM-1**, broadcasting on **97.1 FM** out of **Minden, Ontario.**

Testing will begin on **December 17, 2024**, and will conclude no later than **January 28, 2025**.

We value your feedback during this testing period. If you have any ***comments or concerns***, please reach out to us by:
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After the testing has been approved 97.1 Minden & 100.9 Haliburton will be permanent frequencies in our County. Thank you for your support as we improve Canoe FM's reach to serve more of our amazing community!

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Silent Night, by Emily Stonehouse

The greatest gift

HERE WE are, the last edition of the *Haliburton Echo* for the year.

This time of year always feels a little bit melancholic; the winding down from the euphoric buzz of holiday preparation.

We've covered the magic of the *Nutcracker,* covered the many toy drives and food drives that remind us that we are a community that cares. We've snapped the Santa photos and the parades and the Christmas carols.

The last event we make sure we attend each and every year is the Stuart Baker Elementary School holiday concert.

And what a way to wrap up the season.

I've attended the event every year, for more years than I can count. Starting when I was a student myself at Stuart Baker, and all the way until my own kids went through each year.

emily stonehouse

Editorial

I've seen my fair share of antler hats, tiny tinny bells, and *Frosty the Snowman* on the recorder.

But every year, it absolutely fills me with joy.

Because to me, this is what this season is truly all about.

This year, the teachers had set out over 360 chairs for parents to sit, and with half an hour to go before the show started, all the chairs were filled with parents, guardians, friends and siblings lining the entire gymnasium at JDH, and spilling out into the hallways.

Slowly but surely, these little humans took the stage, joining with their friends, some looking nervous, others beaming with pride, but all of them there to celebrate the season.

And while many viewers are there to listen to the songs, I have a different favourite part of the show.

That moment when a little lost soul scans the crowd, looking for someone they recognize, and the tiny lightbulb that goes off in their faces the second they see a loved one.

I cry every single time.

Because in those little faces, when it clicks that there is someone there to cheer them on during their absolutely chaotic rendition of *Rudolph the Red Nosed Reindeer,* it's all they need.

On those little faces, suddenly you see safety, you see comfort, you see joy.

And that's what this season is truly about.

We spend so much of our time hustling and bustling this time of year; keeping up with gifts and parties and the magic that we so badly want to offer our children. It's easy to feel overwhelmed, drained, exhausted.

But what if we stopped for a moment, and thought about the way those little faces look the moment they see someone they recognize. That tiny lightbulb of magic. It's in them this whole time. All we have to do is show up. Show them safety, show them comfort, show them joy.

I was feeling a little sad when it occurred to me that my two stepdaughters have finished with their Christmas concerts during their elementary school careers; both officially onto literally bigger and better things for them. Soon, my son will be on the stage; his little reindeer hat and tiny tinny bells in his hand.

It happens so fast, these moments of joy, and if we blink, they're over.

So, to the hundreds of parents and loved ones who came to cheer all those little faces on during their show, thank you. For being there. For showing up.

That's the best gift you can give.

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The Broomstick Christmas Tree

A true story of the Holocaust of Starvation 1940-1945
By Martin Hofland

Excerpt from *War Boy*

When Christmas arrived, all the trees in the free zones had already been burned for heat. I was determined to have a Christmas tree, and knew where to get one. Yes, it was back to the forest in the forbidden territory. And many German military zones were heavily protected by guards and minefields. Entering was a deadly risk of being shot or being blown up. I took a chance, because I wanted to have a Christmas tree. I managed to get some branches, hide them under my coat, and smuggled them home into the free zone. My father cut holes in a broomstick with a pair of scissors, and stuck the branches into them. It was the most beautiful tree in the world, and on Christmas Eve, we all sat on the floor around the tree, in a big cold empty room. We had no candles to light the room, no presents to give each other, not even an orange, no food to eat. I was so thin that you could play the piano on my ribs, but we were alive. While we sat under the tree, my mother told us the story of Christmas, and we sang *Silent Night*. I still remember it as the best Christmas I ever had. We were so thankful to be alive, and to have each other. This gift of family love was the greatest gift I ever received, and it will always be tattooed in my memory. We still had our mother.

After Christmas, the situation became worse by the day. People became very weak and sick, and there was no cure available. Thousands were dying from disease because of this lack of medicine. It didn't matter if you were rich or poor. Everyone was trying to survive on nothing. The smell of bread could have filled your stomach.

Despite the hardships of the "Holocaust of Hunger", through the pain of Nazi brutality, I have learned about war and peace, life and death, love and hate. I experienced hunger, danger, and fear. I learned how to share and have compassion, and how to appreciate the smaller things in life. I also learned the true meaning of Christmas, which brought us hope and the strength to survive. I learned how to fold my fingers together in prayer when the bombs came down. I heard the voice that said to me "Hang on Martin, Hang on". I was in more than 13 bomb attacks.

I was very thin, badly dressed and wearing shoes with almost no sole. As a boy of 12, my weight was only 25 pounds and standing with a swollen stomach from malnutrition. And as the food came down, some people fainted from overwhelming. It was a moment that makes my tears roll again while I am writing this down. And beside me was someone. He put his hand on my shoulder. It was my best friend. He was always there to pull me through, to make it.

This is what I call a friend.

If everything is taken away,
By cold and dangerous wind,
Exhausted with hunger and pain,
A struggle to go forward.
In despair you fold your fingers,
Then someone will hear;
He will come to your rescue,
And take away your tear.

points of view

Wise guy

steve galea

Loon Tales

WHENEVER I listen to people my age reminisce about what Christmas was like when we were kids, many of them have fond recollections of their experiences in the Christmas plays our schools used to put on.

I won't lie to you. My memories were not so fond.

To begin with, my acting skills were unappreciated.

Sure, as a fresh-faced kid of 7 years old, I was not yet leading man material. Even so, I remain certain that the St. Lawrence School's production of Nativity Scene: The Awakening was all the poorer for casting me as stable boy number two. Anyone with an eye for raw talent could have surmised that I deserved a beefier role – say stable boy number one.

Nevertheless, I was a consummate professional. So, I stepped out on stage in my dad's housecoat, and I nailed it. By the time I had finished sweeping the stable that was about to be the birthplace of a pretty big deal, the audience was riveted – in no small part because I ad libbed the line, "Whoa! What the heck are they feeding the cattle these days?"

Many people said I stole the show.

And maybe that's why they asked me to reprise that role the next two years in a row.

Yet, by the third year, I was bored with the role I had made my own. So, when I was offered the part once again, I directed them to speak to my agent – my friend Chuck, who I contracted due to his penchant for driving hard bargains during the hockey card trading season.

Minutes later when Chuck returned from talking to Mrs. Andrews, he was jubilant.

"Hey sport, how do you feel about the role of stable boy number three?" he asked.

"He doesn't even carry a broom!" I protested.

"That'll be one Gordie Howe and a Rocket Richard," he replied.

Minutes later, and two hockey cards poorer, I approached Mrs. Andrews.

After hearing my case, she conceded that I should indeed have a more challenging role consummate with my ability. So, on the opening night, I walked out wearing my dad's housecoat and carrying a broom.

It was worth the three hockey cards.

I won't burden you with the boring details, but suffice it to say, the next year all my hard work, and the review I had written in our school newsletter, paid off. For when one of the Wise Men got sick on the day of the play, they asked me to save the show.

It was my first official speaking role. And it was magical.

Not just because of the role either. For that was also the day I learned our math teacher wasn't as good at the subject as he professed. He kept looking over at us and then referring to all three of us as the Two Wise Men.

"There's three of us in the group," I reminded him.

"I know," he answered.

That was the day I knew I was born to be an actor. Because after the other Wise Men gifted Joseph and Mary with gold and myrrh, I took centre stage and, with great feeling and dramatic flair, handed Mary some Frankenstein.

Perhaps sensing the greatness of the moment, the crowd cheered, teacher's wept, and, above it all, I heard my dad yell, "That's my boy!"

But fame is fleeting. The next year I made a cameo appearance as stable boy number four.

There's nothing quite like a ride on a horse drawn wagon to add to the fun of the Christmas season. These Glamorgan volunteer firemen put on a Christmas party for the children of the community.

pic *of the* past

These smiling children made the front page of the *Echo* on Dec. 16, 1981. They were enjoying a ride on a horse-drawn wagon during a Christmas party that the Glamorgan volunteer fire fighters hosted. /File

Winner, winner

Renzo Rosati and Tracey Walton from Moose FM pictured here drew the winning ticket in this year's BIA Buy in and Win Draw. The winner of $1,500.00 in BIA gift cards is Vallerie Pagnello. Vallerie's winning ticket was entered at Country Pickins. /DAVID ZILSTRA Staff

The sweetness of the season

Stuart Baker Elementary School presented their annual Holiday Concert on Dec. 18 at the JDH gym in Haliburton. Hundreds of parents, caregivers, and loved ones watched the 11 performances that were put on by teachers, school staff, and students. The students performed a variety of songs in both French and English, and had the whole crowd cheering for more. /EMILY STONHOUSE Staff

Dysart assumes road's responsibility from cottage group

JAMES MATTHEWS

Staff Reporter

Dysart got a section of road for Christmas.

The municipality earlier this month officially folded into its inventory of roads a section of Trappers Trail Road. It was added to Dysart's responsibility for year-round maintenance.

The road's maintenance will be incorporated into subsequent municipal budgets. Routine maintenance costs are expected to be minimal, but the replacement cost was valued at more than $182,000.

Some Miskwabi Lake property owners lobbied the township to assume ownership of a piece of Trappers Trail Road back in August.

Trappers Trail Road is a 13-kilometre thoroughfare that wraps around Miskwabi Lake. Property owners on the lake's south side wanted the municipality to assume ownership of the 800 metres of road at its end.

All but that 800 metres was already owned by the township.

That portion serves 19 properties on the south side of the lake, one block that's commonly known as Lot 50 in Plan 636, and three other properties on the lake's south side and outside Plan 636.

The road also serves the general public, all-terrain vehicle riders, and hunters.

The Miskwabi Area Community Association (MACA) had responsibility for the previously unassumed road's maintenance and repair.

Aside from responsibility for regular road maintenance, area property owners spent $30,000 since 2011 to bring the road up to municipal standards.

The 19 property owners on the south side of the road were obligated through Development Plan 636 to pay for the total maintenance and repair costs, and the insurance and annual association fees.

MACA is tasked with lake stewardship, community wellness, and to monitor the health of four lakes. Quite simply, MACA is a cottage association and not a road association.

The 800 metres of road in its list of responsibilities was a chore too many.

Council heard during a meeting in August that there was no way for the property owners to continue responsibility for maintenance because the end of the road was owned by the municipality.

Properties are being developed on the north side of the lake that are outside Development Plan 636 and the association cost-sharing terms. And council heard that there's been increasing conflicts with the cottage association and with property owners on both sides.

Mayor Murray Fearrey said the township had no problem assuming control of the piece of road, provided the section is brought up to an acceptable standard.

Rob Camelon, the township's public works director, said Dec. 13 that work has been done on the section of road since the topic was broached in August.

"Since then there was some upgrades done and confirmation from a land surveyor and a professional engineer that it meets standards," he said.

A feast for the ears

The Highlands Wind Symphony performed their holiday concert at Lakeside Church in early December to usher in the Christmas season to an audience of eager listeners. /TM YANO Staff photographer

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happy NEW YEAR
From Our Entire Team!

Art for all at the Corner Gallery

EMILY STONEHOUSE
Editor

David Partridge stands amongst some of his favourite pieces in the current Corner Gallery exhibit, *Wintershades*. /EMILY STONEHOUSE staff

Art.

It can be used as an expression, as a statement. It can be bright and bold or soft and subtle. It can stir political pots, or unite the community through common themes and experiences.

That's what the curator of the Corner Gallery, David Partridge, wants to get across. "This is an open place," he said, while gesturing to the cozy rooms, laden with colour, "I never want art to feel elitist in any way."

Partridge originally hails from Toronto, and while he has a background in art and music, he quickly realized that formalized art school was not for him. "I couldn't do it," he laughed. "I didn't last long there."

He stepped into the role of curator for the gallery in February of this year, but really dove into the local art scene in May. *Wintershades*, the newest exhibit donning the walls of the building, is his first full endeavour into the curatorial world.

The pieces are done by a variety of artists, who Partridge identifies as "loosely local". He spent the better part of this year navigating the local arts scene to see who would fit his vision for the current show. "All the pieces are landscape based," he said. "I find that almost all the art up here is based up here, because that's what really resonates with people."

And while he scoped out the artists who fit the bill, Partridge was adamant about forming both personal and professional relationships with them along the way. "The connections here are so tight," he shared. "I really do consider all of these people to be friends at this point."

Some of the artists include Harvey Walker, Rod Prouse, Gord Jones, Renee Woltz, Marissa Sweet, and Ian Varney to name a few. Many have taught at Haliburton School of Art + Design, while others have either lived or cottaged in the Haliburton area for years.

While they have all dabbled in their individual explorations of local landscapes, no two pieces are even remotely the same.

And while many curators may group pieces together in an exhibit based on the artist of origin, Partridge tackled *Wintershades* differently. "It's all by colour," he shared, noting that this way, viewers aren't pigeonholing their experience in the gallery to someone they have historically known or liked, rather, they can experience the works as a whole.

He has one room he affectionately refers to as "The Purple Room", with each piece sharing hues of rich violets; a similarity that may not be noted if the pieces lived by themselves.

Something that sets the Corner Gallery apart from others, is the fact that it resides in the Lucas House; a historic building on the corner of Mountain Street and Maple Avenue. The old home is prevalent in photographs from the turn of the century, and proudly showcases the creaks and crevices that come naturally with age. With years of history whispering through the walls of the residence-turned-gallery, Partridge had his work cut out for him when it came to creating a flow and a storyline with *Wintershades*.

"Some say there are certain ways you're supposed to hang things, ways you're supposed to display things on the walls," he said, as he toured through each room, "but I liked to just have fun with it, and put pieces together that shared some similarities and stories."

Partridge is dedicated to creating a space that welcomes everyone into the winding halls of the old Lucas House, so much so that he created a weekly event to get people through the doors.

"Coffee and Canvas," he chuckled. "What started as a program to grab a free coffee and check out the art has quickly turned into people staying for two hours to chat."

The group meets every Tuesday, from 12 until 2 p.m., and Partridge shared that many build their schedules around the weekly meet and greet, as it's an opportunity for like-minded artists and non-artists to gather and gab about their worlds of creativity. All are welcome to drop in for a coffee and a chat during the window of the week.

"The focus of the gallery is good people, and good art," said Partridge, "but it's always about the people, and appreciating that art can be for everyone."

The Corner Gallery is located at 123 Maple Avenue, and is open Tuesday to Thursday, from 11 a.m. until 5 p.m. *Wintershades* can be viewed any time over the winter months.

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Food for Mood; supporting others through loss and joy

EMILY STONEHOUSE
Editor

Content warning: please note that this story shares experiences around pregnancy loss and grieving, which some readers may be sensitive to.

While some take tragedy and tuck it away, Natalie Yates faced it head on, and as a result, is creating a community of support for women in need.

The prenatal and baby nutrition consultant, who spends her days split between Haliburton and Barrie, felt that many women were falling through the cracks when it came to successful, and unsuccessful pregnancies. "The conversations are starting to evolve," she said, "but you really have to look for it. It's not really readily available."

Yates is the mother of a busy toddler, but before her successful pregnancy two years ago, she suffered two pregnancy losses back to back, which changed the trajectory of her life, and her career. "I have really allowed my personal life to guide my work, because that's what feels authentic," she shared.

Prior to her losses, Yates offered health coaching online, as well as social media and marketing consultation. But with her deeply personal experience around miscarrying, she noted that she was guided in a new direction, a new calling, for her work. "I thought, how can I take my story, and support other women," she said.

She quickly noticed the lack of support after her first loss. Yates shared that she had a team of medical professionals in her corner during the early stages of pregnancy, and while she navigated the trenches of a miscarriage at seven weeks, but once she was no longer pregnant, she wasn't sure where she fit in. "From a mental health perspective, I felt very alone," she said. "It was physically and emotionally gruelling, and it took quite a bit of time to heal from that."

Yet, her doctor had told Yates that miscarriages are common for many, and was confident that she could have a successful pregnancy.

Yates did get pregnant again, but as she neared the 12-week mark of the pregnancy, an appointment confirmed that there was once again no heartbeat. "After the second loss, I really lost all trust in my body," she shared.

"So much of pregnancy is out of your control," Yates said. After taking time and healing through her second loss, she knew she needed to shift her perspective and face her challenges head-on. "I asked myself how I can lean into my next pregnancy, and do everything in my control to support my body."

In the process of supporting her own journey, Yates paved the way for others in theirs. "I wanted to be in that role of support, because it was so lonely for me," she said. "How can I open up this conversation around the realities of successful and not successful pregnancies?"

Natalie Yates says her daughter, Raya, is a huge inspiration to her life and work. /photo submitted

Using her social media expertise, Yates launched Food for Mood; an online page dedicated to helping navigate the many facets of pregnancy, pre-natal and post-partum nutrition, dietary restrictions, picky eaters, and much more. "Food is so connected to mental health, and how we show up for the day," she said.

Yates works with clients at all stages of their pregnancy journey, and guides them in ways they feel seen, heard, and supported every step of the way. "Everyone has a different experience with pregnancy," she said. "And I think it's so important for the conversations around that to be a bit more real."

> ***"I have really allowed my personal life to guide my work, because that's what feels authentic."***
>
> – Natalie Yates, Food for Mood

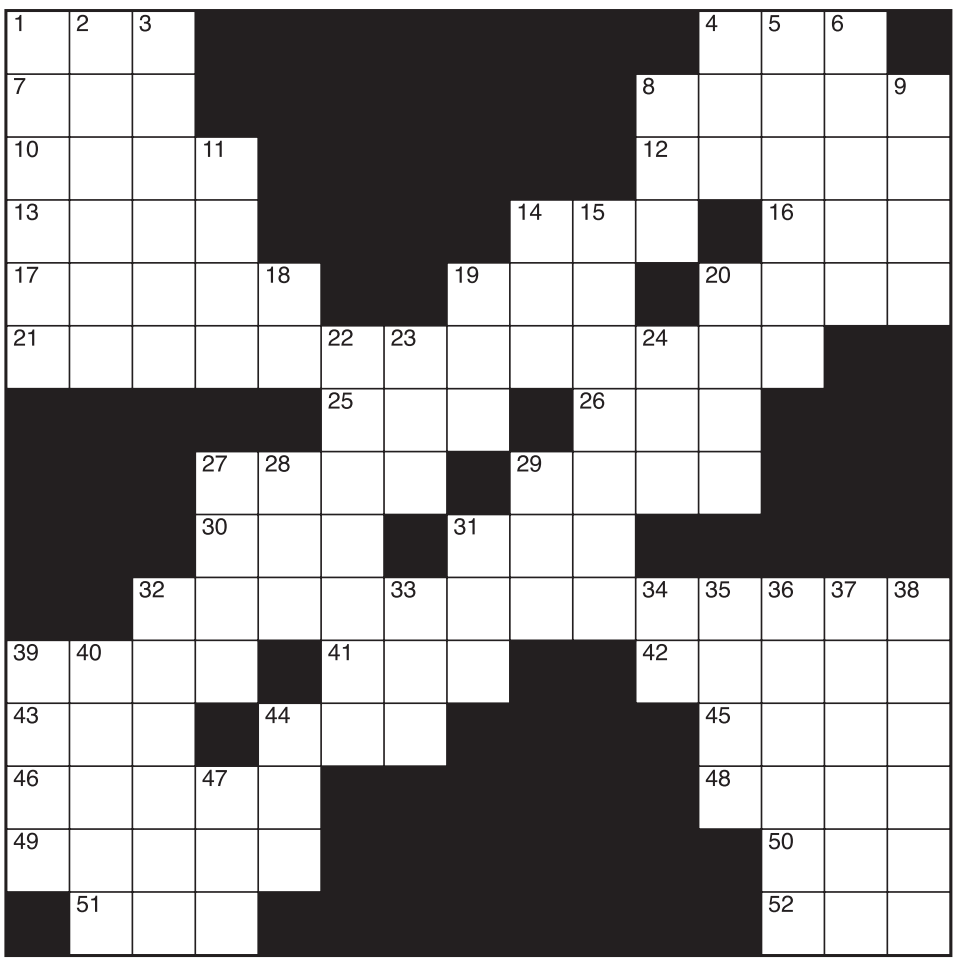
She noted that her services complement the medical care that she ensures women are receiving, and she is able to offer support from a nutritional standpoint. Some of the conditions she has worked with are pre-natal and post-partum insomnia, headaches, fatigue, gestational diabetes, and hypertension, as well as labour and delivery preparation, infants starting solid foods, food sensitivities, and how to support parents who may be struggling at the dinner table.

After her two losses, Yates did have a successful pregnancy, and now has a two and a half year old daughter who fills her life with joy.

She has maintained transparency with her clients and followers around her journey through pregnancy losses, though, announcing another loss in July of this year. Yet, based on her compartmentalization of work, she shared that the loss has impacted her differently than her first two. "I thought I wouldn't be able to work with anyone who was pregnant," she said, "but actually, it's been the opposite. I have been able to set my own stuff aside to support others, and I feel much more empowered now."

"Jealousy and shame and hurt and sadness were all things I had felt whenever I saw someone who was pregnant after my losses," she said, "and these are all completely natural feelings, a lot of people share these similar feelings, and I want to be able to support them."

Yates can be found on Instagram @foodformood__, and her services are available through that platform. She offers one-on-one consultation, and access to regular newsletters through her mailing list.



CLUES ACROSS
1. Central processing unit
4. Taxi
7. Body part
8. Papal court
10. Young women making their public debuts
12. Metal shackles
13. Joseph's wife
14. Licensed professional
16. Partner to cheese
17. Mild fruits
19. File format
20. Province of Indonesia
21. Beloved grilled foods
25. Bar bill
26. Don't know when yet
27. Whale ship captain
29. Touches softly
30. Mock
31. Red-brown Pacific sea bream
32. Summer entertainment options
39. Protective crust
41. Cool!
42. Behave in a way that belittles
43. Denial
44. A place to sleep
45. Electronic counter-countermeasures
46. Intestinal pouches
48. SE Asia family of languages
49. Sound
50. Select
51. Give the impression of dishonesty
52. Witness

CLUES DOWN
1. Of cadmium
2. Deliver a sermon
3. Inner regions of a shadow
4. Aggressive dog
5. Smells
6. Twofold
8. Former OSS
9. Computer language
11. Indian groom
14. Automobile
15. Hairstyle
18. Atomic #76
19. Guy (slang)
20. Ladies' undergarments
22. Furniture with open shelves
23. Back-arc basin
24. Partner to flow
27. A type of horse
28. Possesses
29. Split pulses
31. Small amount
32. Flat-bottomed riverboat
33. Not good
34. Atomic #31
35. Assist in committing a crime
36. Chauvinists
37. Get away
38. One of a people who speaks a Semitic language
39. Civil rights college organization
40. Combustible dark rocks
44. Grocery container
47. Central nervous system

Answers on page 16

A close-up look of the intricate Alpine Village. /EMILY STONEHOUSE staff

Rob McCaig stands with his Christmas Village, which takes him three weeks each year to set up.

Believing in magic: how McKaidwren-ville took shape

EMILY STONEHOUSE
Editor

> ***We do it for our family and our friends. We do it for them.***
>
> — Rob McCaig

I had never seen anything like it.

I was invited to Rob and Laurie McCaig's home in Haliburton last week to take a look at their annual Christmas Village creation. I had seen a few photos that were submitted, but nothing could have prepared me for the vision I saw.

As I drove down the street looking for their home, I saw a signpost that had been artfully wound in holiday colours, decorations lining the driveway.

This must be it, I thought, as I pulled in.

I was welcomed by their dog, Chevy Chase, as Rob and Laurie ushered me in from the cold snap that had recently settled across the county.

Their home looked like it was out of a Hallmark movie; red bows and pine boughs adorning each surface. On their tree, bright lights twinkled in the winter light, and a tiny carousel turned, its little mirrors reflecting diamonds around the room.

"I used to have one just like that," I said to Rob. "It was my favourite ornament as a kid."

"Yes, they don't make them like that anymore," he mused.

You could tell that he is a person who appreciates the magic and joy of the season.

The couple led me downstairs to the pièce de résistance; the Alpine Village.

Rob is a collector, but only of the finest things; a trait that is apparent as the village suddenly became clear.

22 levels. Over 52 buildings. Five mountain ranges. Four trains. Hundreds of tiny trees and people lining the dozens of streets.

Each little person is carefully placed; their intentions for being out identified as they sled down hills, skate on the rink, work on the farm, head to the grocery store. Each and every piece has a place in the hustling and bustling teeny tiny community.

Rob started collecting pieces over 44 years ago. Each year, he takes down his Halloween decor on Nov. 1, and starts his village project for the year. He and Laurie chip away at it as the leaves start to fall and the first snow settles on the ground, and it's ready in three weeks - just in time for the Christmas season. The ultimate goal is to create joy for his grandkids over the holidays. "It all starts with one building," Rob laughed.

A main character in the village vision is the concept of recycling. "This is recycling at its best," he said, as he gestured to the cardboard computer boxes adorned with fresh white snow, the lightbulbs repurposed as tiny firepits, the old bathroom cabinet laid on its side, now in its new life as a glittering skating rink for the tiny people of the village.

Each time you look, something new catches your eye. A Christmas tree farm, a flower shop, a library. There's a replica of the Dorset Tower perched on a mountain, and train tracks snaking their way throughout the downtown core. Two dance halls are lit up with twirling figures and a handmade sign, honouring Rob's mother. Two of the pet shops in the village carry the names of pets the McCaig family have had to say goodbye to.

Each and every piece is meticulously placed with time, consideration, and care. This year, the village is donning a name for Rob and Laurie's two grandsons, McKaidwren-ville. "We do it for our family and our friends," Rob said. "We do it for them. And, because we love doing it."

The village stays lit up until February, when each building hibernates in its own box, ready to twinkle again next season.

As I snapped photos of the village with various lighting and angles, I realized there was no way to properly capture the sparkle, the joy, the magnitude of the little community in its entirety.

But, like so many pieces that take shape this festive time of year, you'll just have to believe in magic.

Municipality of Dysart et al

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Email: info@dysartetal.ca
Website: www.dysartetal.ca

NOTICE OF VIRTUAL PUBLIC HEARING
COMMITTEE OF ADJUSTMENT

DATE: Wednesday, January 8th, 2025
TIME: 11:00 am.
LOCATION: The Committee of Adjustment meeting will be held in the Council Chambers and electronically via Zoom. The meeting will be live streamed to YouTube.

APPLICATIONS:

1. **D13-MV-2024-021 Rule**

The following variance is requested to permit an increase to the total number of accessory structures on a lot located in the WR4L zone:

a) A variance to the provisions of Section 5.2 to permit 3 accessory building (plus 1 one storey building less than 10 square metres in area) as opposed to the permitted maximum of 2 (plus 1 one storey building less than 10 square metres in area).

- Location: Part Lot 21, Concession 1, in the Geographic Township of Havelock, in the Municipality of Dysart et al.
  Roll No. 060-000-07500 – 1574 Breckles Drive

2. **D13-MV-2024-022 David and Karakokkinos**

- The following variance is requested to decrease the minimum water setback on a lot located in the WR4 zone:

  a) A variance to Section 5.2 to permit a seasonal dwelling to have a minimum water setback of 18.8 meters (62 feet) as opposed to the required minimum of 20 metres (66 feet).

- Location: Part Lot 6, Concession 3, Lot 78, Plan 479 in the Geographic Township of Havelock, in the Municipality of Dysart et al.
  Roll No. 060-000-36200 – 6633 Kennisis Lake Road

3. **D13-MV-2024-024 Common Ventures Corporation**

- The following variance is requested to permit a seasonal dwelling to have an increased structure height on a property in the WR4L zone:

  a) A variance to Section 5.2 to permit a seasonal dwelling to have a maximum structure height of 10.5 metres (34.5 feet) as opposed to the permitted 9.5 metres (31.2 feet).

- Location: Part Lot 21, Concession 1, Plan 19R-3073, Part 2, in the Geographic Township of Havelock, in the Municipality of Dysart et al.
  Roll No. 060-000-07305

FOR MORE INFORMATION about electronic meetings and public participation in an electronic meeting, contact the Deputy Secretary-Treasurer at ameijer@dysartetal.ca.

ANY PERSON is entitled to attend the hearing to express his/her views about these applications or may be represented by an agent for that purpose. If you do not attend the hearing the Committee may proceed in your absence, and you will not be entitled to any further notice of the proceedings. The Committee will accept oral and written submissions.

A COPY OF THE DECISION will be sent to the applicant, the agent and to each person who has filed with the Secretary-Treasurer a written request for notice of the decision.

FURTHER INFORMATION: including specific information about the zone provisions affected by each application, and electronic meeting process is available from the Planning and Land Information Department at the Municipal Office by appointment only (8:30 am to 4:30 pm, Monday to Friday) or by phoning 705-457-1740.

Jeff Iles
Secretary-Treasurer, Committee of Adjustment

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400 EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITY

Haliburton BIA Administrator

Job Summary:
The Haliburton Business Improvement Area (BIA) is seeking an enthusiastic and organized Administrator to play a vital role in supporting the BIA's mission to enhance the vibrancy and success of Haliburton's downtown business community. This role involves member engagement, event support, communications, and collaboration with key stakeholders to ensure smooth operations and the successful execution of BIA initiatives.

Key Responsibilities:
Member Engagement:
- Conduct regular in-person visits with BIA members to foster strong relationships, address inquiries, and gather feedback.
- Welcome new members with in-person orientation sessions, providing essential resources and information.
- Provide timely updates to members about BIA activities, events, and initiatives through newsletters, emails, and other communication channels.

Event Support:
- Assist in the planning, coordination, and execution of BIA events, ensuring seamless operations.
- Promote events through newsletters, social media, and the BIA website to maximize member and community participation.

Communication & Administration:
- Manage all communications received through the BIA email and respond promptly and professionally.
- Maintain and regularly update the BIA website with relevant and engaging content.
- Create and post event promotions, updates, and announcements on BIA social media platforms.
- Attend BIA meetings, take accurate minutes, and distribute them to members within 24 hours.

Collaboration:
- Work closely with the BIA President and Secretary to align efforts and ensure the effective operation of BIA initiatives and events.
- Foster a collaborative environment to support the collective goals of the BIA and its members.

Qualifications:
- Strong interpersonal and communication skills, with the ability to engage with a diverse group of members and stakeholders.
- Proven organizational and time-management skills, with a detail-oriented approach to tasks.
- Proficiency in social media management, website maintenance, and email communications.
- Experience in event planning and coordination is an asset.
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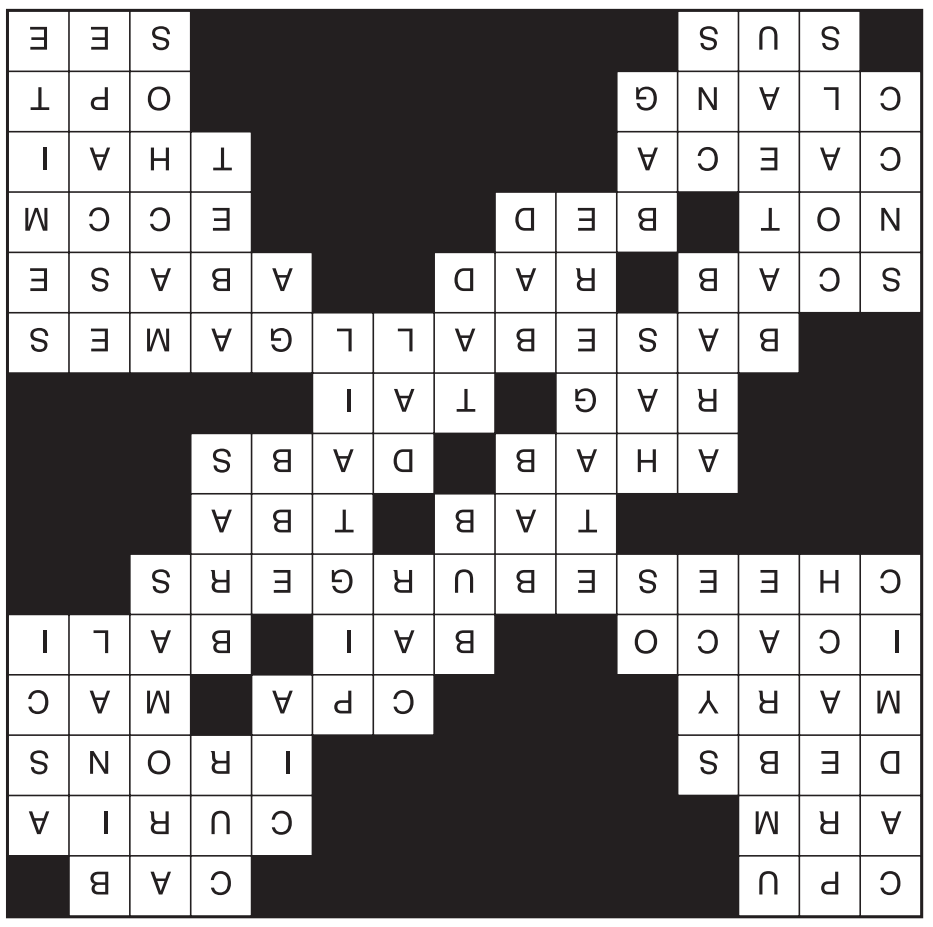

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650 OBITUARIES

In Loving Memory of

Norm Mills (1944–2024)

It is with heavy hearts that we announce the passing of Norm Mills, who died unexpectedly of a heart attack on December 15, 2024 at the age of 80. He leaves behind a legacy of adventure, dedication, and love that touched the lives of all who knew him.

A man of many talents and even greater personality, Norm made his mark as an auctioneer, known for his sharp wit and magnetic presence. His voice was unmistakable, and his auctions were always lively and filled with energy. He was also an accomplished plane builder, a craft that allowed him to combine his technical skill with his love of aviation.

Son of Allan and Lorine Mills. Norm is survived by his sister in law Sylvia Mills (Bill Mills, deceased), and sister Margaret Mills. Brother in law to Don Fleischer (Sandra) and Joan and Chuck Acker.

Above all, Norm was a devoted husband to Betty and a proud father to Sarah (Jeff Miller) and Stu (Jocelyne Turner). He was a longtime dog lover and leaves behind his longtime companion Rocky. He taught all those around him the values of hard work, creativity and living life to the fullest.

Norm had a big heart and an even bigger personality. He was a man of great character, warmth, and humor, and his presence could light up any room. He was a lover of dogs, and his cherished companions brought him joy and comfort throughout his life. His favorite place was his cottage at Little Hawk Lake, where he found peace and relaxation surrounded by nature.

Norm is survived by his beloved wife, children, grandchildren, Isaac, Katie, Liam, Brynn and Eloïse, cherished cousins Jim and Mary, Jane and Jim Farrell, Helen Bull and many close friends who will miss him dearly. A celebration of his life will be held in the spring of 2025, with details to follow.

A special thank you to the talented healthcare team at Peterborough Regional Healthcare Centre who cared for Norm with great compassion.

In lieu of flowers, the family asks that donations be made to Snowflake Meadows Animal Rescue and Rehoming (cheques only), Peterborough Regional Health Centre, Local Foodbanks, and Haliburton Highlands Health Services Foundation in Norm's memory and can be arranged through the Gordon A. Monk Funeral Home Ltd., P.O. Box 427, Minden, Ontario K0M 2K0.

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THE HALIBURTON COUNTY ECHO
AND MINDEN RECORDER
Vol. 99 No. 18 Wednesday, December 17, 1980 "The voice of the Highlands" 40 pages 25 cents

Board will reduce its teaching staff by total of five

Declining enrolment throughout the county school system, coupled with a board decision to reduce the number of grades at the Dorset school, will mean five fewer teaching jobs in Haliburton County next year.

At a meeting last Tuesday, the Haliburton County Board of Education supported recommendations from its special projects committee that will see the Dorset school reduced by four grades, a move that will mean the loss of two teaching jobs. The committee also recommended a reduction of one teacher at Haliburton Highlands Senior Elementary School, one at Archie Stouffer public school in Minden, and one at Haliburton Highlands Secondary School for a total reduction of five teaching positions.

The move does not mean that five teachers will be fired, however. Voluntary retirements and resignations will make up some, if not all of the five positions that will be lost.

The cutbacks in teaching positions are part of an ongoing trend that is expected to continue over the next few years, until the number of students entering and leaving the school system reaches an approximate equilibrium. Declining enrolment is also likely to force further changes in the present school system as the board reduces the number of grades in outlying schools, or closes them completely.

For the moment, however, the change at Dorset is the only one the board will impliment for the 1981-82 school year.

The special projects committee, in its report to the board, recommended no changes at Wilberforce or Victoria Street schools. Gooderham school will continue to operate in its present Kindergarten to Grade 4 arrangement, at least until the end of the next school year, by which time the special projects committee will recommend whether the school should be closed or remain unchanged.

Cardiff school will also operate unchanged next year.

Staffing in all county schools is considered by the committee on an annual basis.

Cummins gets council seat left by Elliott

In a long, drawn-out process, Larry Cummins has finally made it to council.

This week, Cummins was appointed to Anson, Hindon and Minden council to fill a vacancy created when councillor-elect Dean Elliott was forced to resign because of a possible conflict of interest with his justice of the peace duties.

Cummins, a local businessman, first put his name before the public in the November 10 municipal elections. On election night when the votes were counted, he tied with Ed Pergolas for the last seat on council.

Two weeks later, when the recount was scheduled, Cummins lost the council seat by four votes. However, about the same time, Elliott was forced to resign and a vacancy was created at the council table. Although council was not legally bound to appoint the next closest candidate, it decided at its inaugural meeting, last Tuesday, to appoint Cummins to the position.

"It certainly was a long process; well I'm kind of glad the way things turned out," Cummins said in a telephone interview Monday.

Cummins said he felt council had made the right move by selecting the next closest candidate at the polls since it was so close to election time.

"It shows they're thinking of the people, not themselves," Cummins said.

In the next two years, Cummins said he would do his best to help run the municipality for the people and work for the betterment of the community.

Although Cummins said he did not have any specific projects he would like to see get underway immediately, he will be spending his first months on council learning

Cont'd. page 3

Murray Fearrey, right, was elected as Haliburton County warden on Monday night. Here, Malcolm McGillivray, 1980 warden, helps Fearrey on with the warden's robe.

Fearrey is new county warden, says 1981 will prove 'difficult'

Good forest management programs should be strived for in 1981 according to Murray Fearrey, new warden for Haliburton County.

At county council's inaugural meeting Monday night, Fearrey told the members of council that they should work towards establishing forest management programs, making the planning strategy a worthwhile document, and creating good working relationships with the county's unionized workers.

Another important issue to face the council will be dealing with problems facing the local OPP detachment. At a recent meeting of Dysart et al council, where Fearrey is reeve, the detachment sergeant spoke of staffing and distance problems faced by the local force. The sergeant was attending that meeting as local businessmen were concerned with the policing of the village.

During his speech Fearrey said the OPP's concerns should be investigated so the "whole county can have what it deserves".

In the year ahead, the county will be facing difficult economic times as high interest rates, declining lumber industry and construction effect the county, Fearrey told his councillors.

"1981 will prove to be a difficult year," he said.

He noted the county is facing another winter of high unemployment as well as having a "famous" low annual income.

Cont'd. page 3

New councillors assigned duties

Minden sets committee positions

Council representatives were appointed to many area committees at the inaugural meeting of Anson, Hindon and Minden council last Tuesday.

As part of the official ceremony, members of council were named to represent council on certain committees.

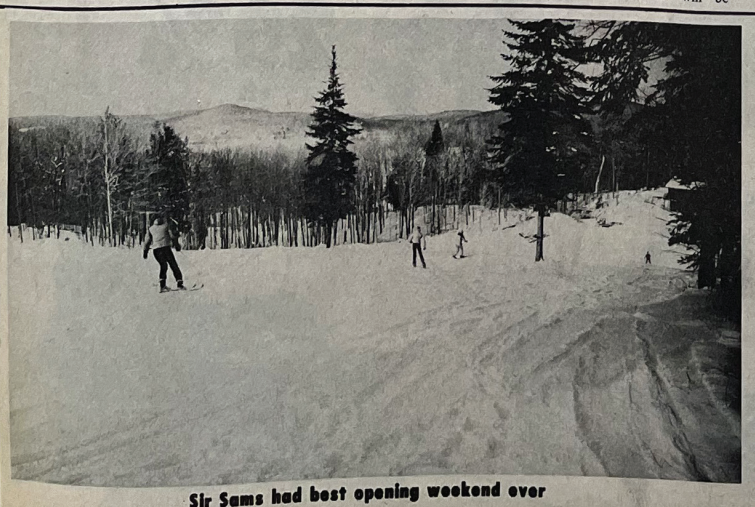
Newly-elected councillor Ed Pergolas was appointed to the Minden and District Horticultural Society. Also newly-elected reeve, Lloyd Walker, was named the Industrial development contact for 1981 and to the Ontario Home Renewal Program (OHRP).

Serving with Walker on the OHRP committee will be deputy-reeve Doug Pritchard, councillor Lyle McKnight and municipal law enforcement officer, Dick Schell.

Walker and McKnight will also be acting as liaison with the Red Cross Society for the next year.

Enforcement officer Schell

Cont'd. page 3



Sir Sams had best opening weekend ever

White Christmas all but certain

If this week's weather is an indication of things to come, all those who dream of a white Christmas should get their wish. A total of up to 40 cm. of snow (16 inches) has fallen on the Highlands since last Monday, and more is expected later in the week. Snowdepths now range up to 55 cm. in northern sections of the county.

Highest temperature recorded over the Monday to Monday period was 1C. Tuesday, December 9. The lowest was a bone chilling - 30C Thursday, December 11, and it was equalled Monday, December 15.

All lakes inthe county are now frozen. Smaller lakes which froze several weeks ago now have up to five inches of ice. Larger lakes generally have thinner ice and lake travel is still considered hazardous.

The snow has been a boon to skiers and conditions for both cross country and downhill are now excellent.

Snowmobile trails are not yet open.

A gradual warming trend is expected for later in the week, with more snow likely by Friday.

Future will depend on enrolment

Dorset school not closed at least for 1981-82 term

Dorset parents have won a partial victory in their fight to keep the public school in that community open. At a meeting last Tuesday, the Haliburton County Board of Education approved recommendations from its special projects committee that will see the school reduced from a full nine grades to a Kindergarten to Grade 4 facility.

The decision means two of the school's four classrooms will be closed, and that two of its four teachers will no longer be needed. The teachers will be absorbed into the county public school system, but the net result will be two fewer teaching jobs.

The decision may not have entirely pleased Dorset parents, but it did stave off the closing of the school for at least another year. Its long term future will now depend on the community's growth, or lack of it.

In recommending the change, the committee, in a report to the board, noted that the compromise would allow younger children to be educated in the community while at the same time providing students in Grade 5 and beyond a chance for a broader educational experience.

Those students will be educated in Muskoka, with the majority of them expected to go to Irwin Memorial School in Dwight, 11 miles from Dorset.

The committee also noted that keeping the school open would enable the board and the community to assess the growth or decline of the student population on a yearly basis to determine if the school should continue to function.

Dorset parents and local politicians have been opposed to the possible closure of the school on the grounds that it would hurt the community's attractiveness to potential newcomers. More recently, they have expressed a feeling that the community could grow in the immediate future because of the provincial government's commitment to increase research into the acid rain phenomenon.

In recommending a reduction in the number of grades at the school, instead of complete closure, the committee acknowledged area parents' and politicians' fears that if the school were closed, it would never be reopened.

Besides providing increased educational opportunities for senior students, the change to a 'K to 4' school will save the board money, the committee report notes. It says caretaking, heating and electrical costs will be cut when two of the school's four classrooms are taken out of service, and that expenditures for teachers salaries will be reduced by more than 50 percent. In addition, the committee said, the board may be able to rent out the two unused classrooms to further offset operating costs.

The net saving is expected to be greater than busing costs and fees to the Muskoka Board brought about by the transfer of students to Irwin Memorial school.

Before the board voted on the committee's recommendations, members of the Dorset parents group reminded trustees that the original decision to examine the future of the school had been prompted by a projected drop in enrolment that has not yet come about, and that the parents feel will not materialize, especially if the acid rain laboratory is expanded.

Parents also expressed concern about Irwin Memorial school's ability to handle an influx of more than 20 senior students from Dorset.

A third concern centred on the problem of French. Muskoka schools begin French instruction in Kindergarten, whereas the Haliburton County Board provide French in Grade 5 and beyond. Feeling that Dorset students would be at a distinct disadvantage when they moved on to Irwin Memorial, the parents asked board members if French could be taught from Kindergarten onward at the Dorset school, using one of the two remaining teachers.

Director of Education J. Douglas Hodgson indicated that the request could not be considered, however, because the education act requires boards to provide equal educational opportunity to all its students. The board can begin French instruction in any grade it chooses under the regulations, he said, but it must offer it in all schools at that grade. Thus an exception could not be made at the Dorset school, even if the board wanted to do so.

Trustee Earl Cooper felt

Cont'd. page 3

Echo will not publish in Christmas week

Because Christmas falls in mid week this year and in order that our staff members may enjoy the holidays, the Haliburton County Echo will publish early Christmas week. The Echo will be published on Monday, December 22, 1980. The deadline for display and classified advertising as well as for editorial submissions for that issue will be 5:00 p.m. Saturday, December 20.

There will be no Echo published the week between Christmas and New Year's. Our office will be closed from December 23 through January 1 inclusive.

We thank you for your cooperation on these altered deadlines, and wish you a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year.

Students at Haliburton Highlands Senior Elementary School were warming up for Christmas holidays last week. Mrs. Carters grade seven class proudly displays their season's greetings.

Employment situation 'bleak' but new program could help

by Sue Cooper

Although there may be a few more people looking for work this year, the unemployment rate is about average for this time of year, according to the manpower Outreach office in Haliburton village.

Even though the winter months are generally a slow time in the Highlands, Manager Jayne Heppleston said the number of unemployed might be slightly higher this season.

"Things are looking a little bleak at the moment, but you know, the next day they could turn around and we could have orders for five casuals," Heppleston said in a telephone interview Monday.

Although all unemployment insurance applications are filtered through the local office, there is no way of determining the number of people on claims in the county," Heppleston said.

"It's about average for this time of year - maybe a little bit tighter this year because there hasn't bee as much construction," she said.

However, there is a possibility that 28 more jobs will be made available in the county this winter as the federal government's Canadian Community Development Program gets underway, Heppleston said.

This program will help out through the winter months and replaces the former Canada Works program, which was not available last year.

Although the program will not effect the largest unemployment area the county has, it will provide work for women, youth, native Canadians and the handicapped, Heppleston said.

"It's mainly for women, youth and physically handicapped, so it's not even going to reach a target that we're hefty in," Heppleston added.

The project will, however, add a welcome relief during

Cont'd. page 3

Santa to make special visit to Haliburton this Saturday

Santa Claus is coming to town and not just on Christmas Eve. This year, at the special request of the Rotary Club of Haliburton and the Haliburton Legion Branch 129, Santa has agreed to take a couple of hours off from his preparations and visit with boys and girls in Haliburton village.

Santa will arrive at the Legion hall at 12 noon and will greet the children to be sure he's made note of their wishes for his visit Wednesday night before Christmas. And he's also said he'll be handing out presents to all the youngsters who turn up to meet him at the Legion.

At 1 p.m., there'll be more entertainment for the children, as well as a movie to top off the afternoon's activities.

Don't miss Santa's special visit to Haliburton.

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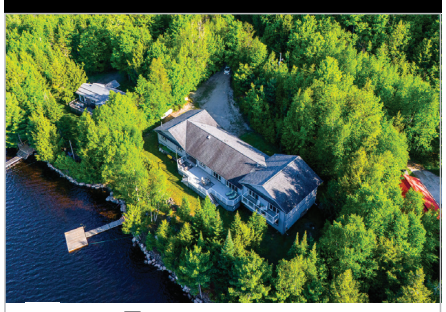

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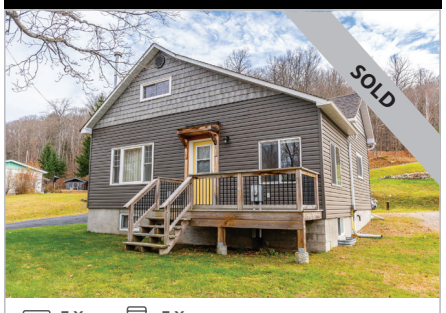

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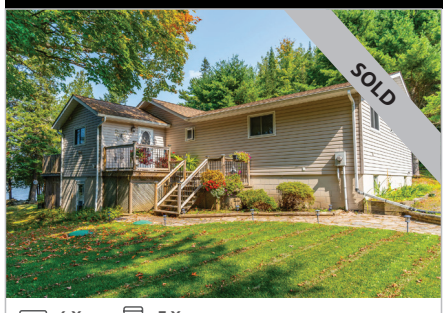

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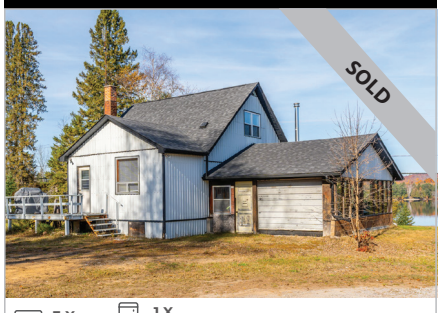

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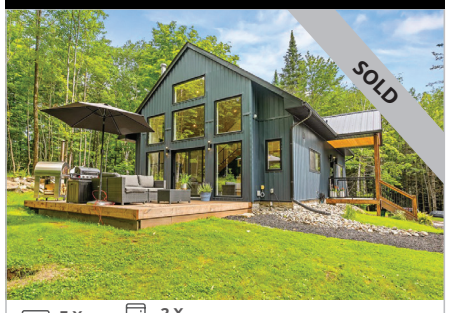

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